

Lecture as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2019

## **Foucault and History of the Present: Genealogies of Surveillance and Discipline**

### **Organizational details**

Instructor: Mustafa Aslan

Date: 12 June, 2019, from 16.00 to 18.00 h

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 020 (HS 020)

### **Content**

At first, the notion of “history of the present” may sound highly paradoxical and, even, as a misnomer. However, a deeper analysis of Michel Foucault’s method of writing a “history of the present” unearths a burgeoning approach to history as well as a critique of conventional historiography. This lecture will seek to convey Michel Foucault’s perception of “history of the present” along with its critical objectives and difference from conventional historiography. On this account, “history of the present” signifies a peculiar style of inquiry. Briefly explained, it undertakes the effort to reveal the overarching struggles of the past between power structures that produced contemporary practices instead of ordinarily tracing their specific historical origins. Crucial in understanding this phenomenon, are also Foucault’s shift of historical research from what is known as “archeology” to “genealogy” and his idea of *dispositif*. To illustrate this complex network of conceptual elements further, this lecture will also incorporate Foucault’s interpretation of Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon prison.

Key words: **History of the present, archeology, genealogy, Foucault, *dispositif*, historiography**

### **Learning Targets**

- To acquire an in-depth understanding of Foucault’s approach to history as well as his method of history writing
- To learn the peculiar implications of several Foucauldian concepts such as genealogy, archeology and *dispositif*

### **Target group**

Students, Doctoral Candidates, and Postdocs of all Faculties

### **Course language**

English

**Registration** No registration needed